

2018-10-26

Concept Note

Final Regional Forum of the Swedish-supported Programme “*Towards a Non-Toxic South-East Asia*” November 27-29, 2018 Bangkok, Thailand

Background:

The Swedish-supported regional Programme “*Towards a Non-toxic South-East Asia*” was launched in 2007 with an overall aim to contribute to reduced health and environmental risks from chemicals through better management of agricultural, industrial and consumer chemicals and sustainable intensification of agricultural production. The programme covers the Mekong Region countries: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam as well as the Yunnan, Guangxi and Hainan provinces in China. The Swedish Chemicals Agency (KemI) is coordinating the programme and it is implemented in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Regional office for Asia and the Pacific, Pesticides Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PANAP) and the Field Alliance (TFA).

Since the beginning of the programme, regional meetings have been organized by programme partners in order to review progress, share information and experiences among countries in the region, inform on recent development and trends in the management of pesticides, industrial and consumer chemicals and discuss strategies for future interventions and activities in order to achieve the objectives of the programme. Whereas each of the regional and country programme partners has its own distinctive, albeit complementary, implementation role in this joint regional Programme, these meetings have acted as a forum for exchange and have facilitated a dialogue on GO-NGO collaboration for better chemical management and risk reduction. These meetings have also served as important forums for inter-ministerial

dialogue and networking as well as for involvement of other concerned actors and stakeholders.

The current phase of this regional programme is coming to completion in December 2018 and partners therefore wish to gather counterparts and concerned stakeholders to summarize the accomplishments and lessons learned from more than 10 years collaboration, to highlight remaining challenges for the region and discuss ideas, priorities and strategies for continued work to strengthen chemicals management and reduce health and environmental risks from pesticides, industrial and consumer chemicals.

For this purpose, a final regional meeting of the Swedish-supported Programme “*Towards a Non-toxic South-East Asia*” is scheduled to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, November 27-29, 2018.

Objectives:

The overall objectives of this meeting will be to:

- Share highlights of achievements and impact resulting from programme interventions, from 2007 to 2018;
- To highlight needs, opportunities and challenges for continued work on chemicals and pesticide management;
- Discuss how the region can move from awareness to action for a sound management of chemicals and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Present and discuss findings from selected innovative project components;
- Enable meetings and networking between and among concerned stakeholders.

Organising and Funding Body:

The meeting will be organized and hosted jointly by all regional partners, KemI, FAO, TFA and PANAP, within the on-going regional programme funded by the government of Sweden.

Dates and Location:

The Meeting will be held in Bangkok, Thailand (Sukosol Hotel), for 2.5 days (not including travel), November 27-29, 2018.

Agenda and Participants:

The meeting will be divided into three parts:

Day 1, high level segment

Morning session:

High-level dialogue with short presentations from persons at key positions in the work for sound management of pesticides and chemicals, followed by a panel discussion on the topic “Moving from awareness to action”.

Afternoon session:

Plenary session with presentations from regional programme partners on the topic “Progress towards a Non-toxic Southeast Asia: Learning from the past, looking into the future”.

Estimated number of participants during day 1 is 100-150 persons. Participants will include representatives from each of the core member countries (Cambodia, China PR, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam) representatives from other ASEAN countries, representatives from KemI, regional and local partner organizations, UN organizations, potential donors, industry and other relevant stakeholder.

Day 2-3:

Parallel sessions covering selected topics for a sound management of pesticides and chemicals in the region (protection of children from pesticides, mercury management, greening agriculture, sustainable intensification, IPM, agroecology, chemicals in products etc.)

Estimated number of participants during day 2-3 is 50-100 persons. Participants will include representatives from each of the core member countries (Cambodia, China PR, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam), representatives from KemI, FAO, PANAP, TFA and local partner organisations and other concerned stakeholders.

A tentative agenda for the Forum is attached below.

Poster exhibition:

At the meeting venue, regional and local programme partners will display posters, information materials etc.